TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 25, 2002 LB 692, 1085

appropriation process. Next year, I would certainly look for the body to take another look at LB 692 as we're coming into a new biennium, and so we will look at that...that point, but this...all of those dollars then would be used for health care.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Okay. So...so then, none of that...that money will ever end up in the General Fund cash dollars then? Is that right?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, however, certainly this should offset General Fund dollars that are being used for Medicaid and some other issues.

SENATOR JANSSEN: All right. And...all right. Thank you, Senator Jensen. Here we go again. We are going to put some more dollars in...in the rainy day fund. Here we're sitting with what, a couple of hundred million bucks behind. We're not going to use any of that to...to cure the problems we have right now, and then after...after the...a couple of years in the rainy day fund, then we're going to go put some more dollars into the...the health...health fund for...for smokers. Well, that's not a very stable market. First of all, if you achieve what you want to do is get the...you raise the taxes so you get people to quit smoking. Well, we know that's not going to happen. But the sales of cigarettes is...are going to go down. Those people who want to smoke are going to smoke. So the tax dollars you're getting from the revenue off of cigarettes is going to decline. I'll almost guarantee that. And smoking is not going to decline that much, but you're going to lose the sales. I'm sorry, I...I'm not going to be able to support this. If it is a compromise, I...I won't do that because I know exactly what's going to happen. I would have supported a 20...20-cent increase, but I will... I will not support a 30-cent increase. You're just cutting off your nose to spite your face is what's happening. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. For discussion, the Jensen amendment, AM3304 to FA945 to LB 1085. Open for discussion. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I rise in